This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A mounting fixture for connecting pipettes of various sizes to the air channel of a pipettor, said fixture comprising:

a tubular nose having a proximate end secured to said pipettor and an open distal end;

a resilient retainer lining the interior of said nose, said retainer having an axial passageway communicating at its entry and exit openings respectively with the open distal end of said nose and with the air channel of the pipettor, said passageway being tapered from a maximum diameter at said entry opening to a minimum diameter at said exit opening, said entry opening being sized to axially receive the largest of said pipettes and said retainer being internally configured to resiliently grip differently sized pipettes inserted therein at different locations along the length thereof;

a stabilizing member at the open distal end of said nose, said stabilizing member being configured to radially confine and support pipettes of various sizes received in the axial passageway of said resilient retainer, the stabilizing member further being configured so that the pipettes extend through a distal end of the stabilizing member; and

cooperating locking structure associated with said stabilizing member and said nose to releasably lock said stabilizing member at the open distal end of said nose, said cooperating locking structure including at least one resilient portion associated with one of said stabilizing member and said nose to establish a snap-fit locking engagement of said stabilizing member with said nose.

2. (ORIGINAL) The mounting fixture of claim 1 wherein said stabilizing member comprises a tubular sleeve projecting axially from the distal end of said nose.

3. (ORIGINAL) The mounting fixture of claims 1 or 2 wherein said stabilizing member is rigid, is detachably secured to the distal end of said nose, and has an inner diameter smaller than that of the entry opening of said resilient retainer.

4. (ORIGINAL) The mounting fixture of claim 3 wherein said stabilizing member is snap fitted into the open distal end of said tubular nose.

5. (ORIGINAL) The mounting fixture of claim 1 wherein said stabilizing member projects axially from the distal end of said nose by a distance at least about 0.5 times the minimum diameter of the axial passageway in said resilient retainer.

6. (WITHDRAWN) The mounting fixture of claim 1 wherein said stabilizing member comprises a resilient annular disc enclosed within said tubular nose at the open distal end thereof, said disc having a central opening therein configured and dimensioned to frictionally engage pipette tips inserted in the passageway in said retainer.

7. (WITHDRAWN) The mounting fixture of claim 6 wherein the diameter of said central opening is smaller than the entry opening of the axial passageway in said retainer.

8. (WITHDRAWN) The mounting fixture of claim 7 wherein said annular disc has radially inwardly projecting teeth.

9. (WITHDRAWN) The mounting fixture of claim 7 wherein said annular disc has radially outwardly projecting teeth.

10. (WITHDRAWN) The mounting fixture of claim 7 wherein said annular disc has both radially inwardly projecting teeth and radially outwardly projecting teeth.

11. (WITHDRAWN) The mounting fixture of claim 1 wherein said stabilizing member is subdivided into mating sections enclosing said nose and defining an opening aligned with the open distal end of said nose and the passageway in said retainer, said mating sections being resiliently deflectable to receive and frictionally grip pipette tips of varying diameters inserted through said opening.